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GOVERNOR PRESENTS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ART
Napolitano honors Arizona artists, educators and community members

PHOENIX – Speaking to a crowd of about 900, Governor Janet Napolitano last night reiterated her support of the arts and arts education last night at the 25th Anniversary of the Governor's Arts Awards. The ceremony, hosted by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and the Arizona Citizens for the Arts, honors artists, educators, corporations, and individual community members statewide for their efforts in promoting arts and arts education in Arizona.

"We cannot allow ourselves to forget the important role that art and especially arts education plays in the lives of Arizonans," said Governor Napolitano. "In addition to the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, the arts are essential for a balanced, effective education."

The Governor presented awards in five categories, with honorees' hometowns in Williams to Tucson. Winners were selected from more than 100 nominations:

Artist:	David Tineo – Tucson;
Individual:	Gerry Fathauer – Mesa;
Corporation:	DMB, Inc – Scottsdale;
Educator:	Bonnie Dent – Williams;
Community:	Chandler Center for the Arts – Chandler;

A sixth award, the newly created "Arts Advocate" award, was presented to Shelley Cohn, who retired last fall after nearly 30 years of service with the Arizona Commission on the Arts. This newly created honor will subsequently be known as the "Shelley."

The Arizona Commission on the Arts is the state arts agency. Their primary goal is to foster strong working relationships between artists and Arizona communities. In addition, ACA promotes discussion and awareness of the importance and impact of the arts in achieving quality of life, educational excellence and economic health for all Arizonans and Arizona enterprises.

Short biographies of the award recipients are attached:

Arts Advocate Award – Shelley Cohn, Phoenix

Shelley Cohn, the recently retired Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts, was, for nearly 30 years, the invisible hand that guided the next generation of arts organizations and leaders toward a strong and sustainable future.

Cohn was instrumental in motivating Arizona state legislators to expand the state agency budget from \$600,000 to \$3,400,000 including the creation of Arizona ArtShare, the public/private endowment for the arts, and the Arizona Arts Trust Fund.

Under the leadership of Cohn and the Commission the Expanded Bicultural Exchange program with Mexico became a model that was replicated in other states. Here in Arizona, Cohn worked to create the Tribal Museums Program to serve existing and new museums in 12 Arizona tribal communities.

Cohn worked with the Maricopa County Attorney to create the Anti-Drug A.P.P.L.E. Corps, a partnership of artists, prosecutors, private enterprise, law enforcement and educators to provide arts programs that discourage use of drugs and gang behavior.

Arizona's cultural landscape is dramatically improved under the leadership of arts advocate Shelley Cohn.

Artist Award – David Tineo, Tucson

Tucson muralist and painter David Tineo was born in Douglas, Arizona and grew up in Tucson's Barrio Anita neighborhood. His paintings depict a wide range of experiences from colorful murals with children in harmony, Day of the Dead characters engaged in activities dear to them during lives, the Virgin de Guadalupe, cock fighting scenes, and the national, community and personal history of the Chicano movement.

Tineo was the first Mexican-American to be awarded the prestigious Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Award given to American artist that strive to make a difference in their communities. He has received numerous awards from the Mexican Consulate, the City of Tucson, the Sister Cities Program, and numerous community awards throughout the Southwest.

Noted works include the murals "American Fortitude, Pride and Honor," painted during the copper strikes in Morenci, Arizona and now listed in the Southwest Labor History Archives; "Raices," a sprawling mural on the north wall of the Tucson Museum of Art painted in conjunction with Antonio Pazos; "Compass to the Southwest" at the University of Arizona; and many more located throughout the Tucson community.

Tineo now finds himself facing the challenge of losing his sight from macular degeneration. Having been a painter his entire life, his rapid instinctual style and skill honed over many years will serve him well as he moves forward with commitment into a new phase of his career as an artist.

Individual Award -- Gerry Fathauer, Mesa

When Gerry Fathauer was hired by the City of Mesa in 1980 to head a small community arts program, the city was rich in arts organizations but had no professional performing or visual arts venues and no community-wide plan or vision.

Through 25 years of changing City Council members, multiple mayors, two city managers and two generations of community leaders, Fathauer developed and worked tirelessly toward her goal of creating a thriving arts community in Mesa with a venue that all could call home.

Today, Mesa has a comprehensive professional arts program, including visual performing and arts education programs, a \$200,000 city grants program to nurture local arts groups, the nationally-renowned Arizona Museum for Youth and Mesa Southwest Museum, and of course, the new Mesa Arts Center.

Fathauer's steadfast leadership despite early defeats; her ability to recruit, retain and guide a disparate group of staff, artists, politicians, bureaucrats, citizens, voters, donors, architects, engineers and volunteers over 25 years to bring the arts to hundreds of thousands of people makes her deserving of the individual Governor's Arts Award.

Corporate Award – DMB, Inc., Scottsdale

Not only is DMB, Inc. preeminent in their own field of building developments and communities, their leadership continually reaches out to create a higher quality of life for residents across the Valley.

Drew Brown, Mark Sklar and Bennett Dorrance have served on many non-profit boards providing quality leadership, and, in addition, they have financially supported many local major arts institutions corporately and privately. This list includes the Phoenix Art Museum, Desert Botanical Garden, the Arizona Science Center, the Heard Museum and T-Gen to name a few.

Drew Brown and Mark Sklar have taken a leadership role in creating – and now running – the board of the Maricopa Partnership for Arts and Culture in an attempt to present a solid case to business for supporting the arts across the county. Next, they plan to lead an effort to bring significantly more resources to the arts in Maricopa County. If successful, the recognition of the importance of art and culture in this community will send a message across the nation that Maricopa County intends to continue to grow its quality of life and that it will lead in this arena.

Educator Award – Bonnie Dent

Bonnie Dent has taught visual arts in the public schools of Williams, Arizona for over 30 years. Within the Williams community, Dent has encouraged students from kindergarten through high school to work together in creating art work that is sold to benefit local charities, as well as to build an outdoor classroom that will be used not only for arts instruction but also for drafting, construction and biology classes.

A middle school art teacher, Dent noticed the lack of arts instruction at the elementary school level and voluntarily organized an innovative art program for students in 1st-5th grades to teach each other. Once a week during her lunch break, Dent taught a few students from each classroom a fine arts lesson and simple teaching strategies. Then each one returned to the classroom to help his/her teacher give the same lesson to the rest of the class. This was in effect for four years until an elementary school art teacher was hired.

Dent has received numerous awards for her accomplishments; among these are The Art Institute of Chicago's full scholarship for the Teacher Institute of Contemporary Arts in 2001, Coconino County's Teacher of the Year for small and rural schools in 200, and a US Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholarship to study the teaching of folk arts in Japan in 1999.

Dent's commitment to the students of Williams through the visual arts, service learning and art education has made a difference to the children of that community through two generations. Her legacy is a strong art education program in place for future students and supported by the community.

Community Award – Chandler Center for the Arts, Chandler

The Chandler Center for the Arts has encouraged the arts through service, support, space and special projects and provides thousands of people within the Greater Chandler community and opportunity to experience live and visual arts throughout the calendar year.

Thousands of children have experienced quality arts education through the free children's art workshops held at the Vision Gallery and through performance and production activities at the Center for the Arts. The workshops are taught by professional artists and provide more than 1,200 children each year an opportunity to learn an art medium and to create their own work of art.

The Center distributes thousands of free tickets into the community each year through its Arts Pass program and through charity auctions and conducts charity drives in conjunction with several performances each year. In 2005, the Center distributed more than 3,700 free tickets into the community.

Diverse educational, visual and performing arts programs, educational opportunities, and a commitment to the community makes the Chandler Center for the Arts own of the "crown jewels" of the East Valley.